Ammanford Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health's

Report

For 1953.

"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.

Ammanford Urban District Council.

AMMANFORD,

JULY, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Year ending 31st December, 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. G. M. Herbert, Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. L. Sunderland, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	944 Acres
Population (mid-year, 1953)	6,641
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,942
Number of Houses completed in the Urban during 1953:—	
(a) By the Council	16 houses, 4 flats
(b) By Private Building	7 houses
Rateable Value	£29,524
Net Product of Penny Rate	£110

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births:—

The number of Births fell from 104 last year to 87 in 1953.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	46	38	84
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	47	40	87

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:—

Ammanford	13.1
Carmarthenshire	14.08
England and Wales	15.5

	M.	F.	Total
Still Births—Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	2	1	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:—

Ammanford	33.3
Carmarthenshire	21.54
England and Wales	22.4

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	2	0	2

Deaths under 4 weeks:—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	1	0	1

Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 Live Births:—

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Under 1 year	22.9	34.48	26.8
Under 4 weeks	11.5	22.85	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from Pregnancy or Child-birth.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
No. of deaths	0	3	525
Rate per 1,000 total births	0.00	1.2	0.76

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1953:—

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis	0	0
Cancer	4	7
Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease	9	8
Coronary Disease	9	1
Heart Disease	9	2
Other Disease of Circulatory System	4	1
Bronchitis	5	1
Pneumonia	3	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	0
Digestive Diseases	0	0
Nephritis	2	0
Influenza	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Measles	1	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	0
All Other Accidents	3	1
Suicide	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	1
Other Ill-defined Diseases	2	6
All Causes	60	28

Death Rate per 1,000 Population:—

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Tuberculosis	0.0	0.23	0.20
Influenza	0.0	—	0,16
Pneumonia	0.45	—	0.55
Acute Polomyelitis	0.0	0.0	0.01
Diphtheria	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cancer	1.65	2.0	—
All Causes	13.2	12.96	11.40

Deaths from Cancer.—

Total 11 ... Males 4 ... Females 7

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER:—

Site	Age Groups													
	30–40		40–50		60–65		65–70		75–80		Over 80		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Breast ...										1				1
Oesophagus ...										1				1
Stomach ...						1		1						2
Genito-Urinary ...							1			1			1	1
Other Sites ...		1		1	1		1				1		3	2
Total ...		1		1	1	1	2	1		3	1		4	7

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received during 1953—Total 203.

There was a small epidemic of Measles during the year; 186 cases were notified, and there was one death.

Total Notifications of Infectious Diseases in 1953:—

	Ammanford U.D.C.	Carmarthen County
Measles	186	809
Scarlet Fever	4	80
Whooping Cough	8	272
Erysipelas	1	14
Pneumonia	3	181
Poliomyelitis	1	11

DIPHTHERIA:—

For the seventh year in succession, no cass of Diphtheria occurred in the Area.

During the year, 56 children—aged 0—5 years received a full course of Inoculation against this Disease. One child over 5 years was given a booster reinforcing injection.

TUBERCULOSIS:—

Eight new cases were notified during the year.

Seven Respiratory and one Non-Respiratory.

There were no deaths.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED IN AGE GROUPS.

Ages.	Respiratory. M.	Respiratory. F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	Non-Respiratory. F.
0—5 years				1
20—25	2	1		
25—30 years	1			
40—45 years	1			
45—50 years	2			
	6	1		1

Case and Death Rates per 1,000 Population:—

A.U.D.C.	Case.	Deaths
A.U.D.C.	1.20	0
C.C.C.	1.43	0.23
England and Wales	—	1.43

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Town during Coronation Week. There was a fairly good response from the adult population.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis discovered was small, only 0.09 per cent. of those examined.

The following is a detailed report of the findings.

Analysis in Age Groups:—

	Grand Total	Under 15		15–24		25–34		35–44		45–59		60 and over		Totals	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total Number examined ...	2158	95	103	224	257	185	205	198	225	245	220	123	78	1070	1088
Number found to be abnormal ...	324 or 15 01%	3	7	10	14	15	16	54	20	85	30	56	14	223	101
Classification of Abnormal Cases— (a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2 or 0.09%				1			1						1	1
(b) Requiring further observation ...	2 or 0.09%	1		1										2	
(c) Other Abnormalities of the Chest ...	320 or 14.83%	2	7	9	13	15	16	53	20	85	30	56	14	220	100

DETAILS OF MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY OF AMMANFORD.

General Population—June, 1953.

Details of Other Abnormalties:—

	T.	M.	F.
Bony Abnormality	38	15	23
Bronchitis and Emphysema	23	19	4
Bronchiectasis	5	3	2
Pneumoconiosis	136	136	0
Basal Fibrosis	14	8	6
Pleural Thickening	3	2	1
Acquired Heart Disease	225	7	18
Abnormality of the Diaphragm	7	6	1
Healed Post Primary P.T.	34	14	20
Inactive Pleural Effusion	1	1	0
Pulmonary Fibrosis	1	0	1
Totals	320	220	100

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

During the year one aged person suffering from chronic disease and in need of care and attention, was admitted to Bryntirion under the National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS.

Six of the Students who were granted Scholarships by the United Nations Organisation to study Social Science at Swansea University, visited Ammanford for three weeks before commencing their studies, to observe the local manner of life and social services.

The Students and their Tutors expressed their appreciation for all the help they received from the Health Department.

CLINICS.

Ante-Natal Clinic ... 1 At the Clinic, High Street, on Thursday Mornings, Dr. M Davies and Nurses in attendance.

2. Amman Valley Hospital, Mondays, at 1 p.m.

Infant Welfare ... At the Clinic, High Street, every other Tuesday afternoon. Dr. A. Morgan and Nurses in attendance.

School Clinics: 1, Orthopædic At Clinic, High Street, on Monday.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A County Ambulance and Car is stationed in the Town.

MIDWIVES.

There are three fully qualified Midwives residing and practising in the Area.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Supply of Water for the District was again plentiful through out the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily. Some difficulty is still being experienced in maintaining a constant supply to the higher reaches of the district, but everything possible is done in this direction. On the whole, the supply was good and fairly regular. The Joint Water Board is faced with abnormal pressure conditions, a wide variation of pressure as between day and night being inseparable from the present supply system, but a Hydrostat fixed on Ammanford Square assists in maintaing a suppply for the higher regions. The Water is sampled by the Joint Water Board, and reports are satisfactory. The entire population is served direct, there being no stand-pipes. When the new Scheme is completed, a regular and adequate supply will at all times be available for all parts of the district without the difficulties of differential pressures.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewers have again functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, and is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. It is now proposed to construct additional disposal facilities in order to prevent the overloading of the works which now occurs.

RIVERS, ETC., POLLUTION.

During the year there has been no serious pollution of rivers in the district. The most serious source of pollution at present is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries outside the Urban Area. These effluents are treated by subsidence before discharge, and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition, but it does not appear that this is done sufficiently often.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	1865
No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers	3
No. of Houses with Closets built on the Conservancy System, not able to connect to Sewers	8
No. of Houses remaining to be connected	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE.

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collection being made by the Council Lorry twice weekly from all parts of the Town. The Refuse when collected, is tipped at Myddynfych Farm and Rhydymaerdy. The Myddynfych tip is outside the Urban Area. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers' and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by tipping on a farm near Bettws Mountain. In my opinion, immediately the supply position improves, steps should be taken to enforce the provision by householders of proper Dustbins, as all kinds of insanitary receptacles are now used. It has always been the exception to see a proper covered Dustbin in the streets of the Town, all kinds of boxes, tins and buckets being used for the purpose. Under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the provision of a proper covered Dustbin can be enforced.

PRIVIES, CESSPITS, ETC.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their gardens, and the Cesspits, being built on the soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections made for Nuisances	432
No. of Informal Notices served	41
No of Statutory Notices served	Nil
No. of Water Leakage Inspections	76
No. of Water Leakage Notices	61

CAMPING SITES.

There are no Licences now in force; those at the Old Chemical Works having been withdrawn and the persons concerned having been housed by the Council. No suitable sites exist within the Urban Area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary under this head.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Urban Area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No. of Council Houses found to be infested	Nil
No. of other Houses found to be infested	Nil
No. of Houses disinfested	Nil

SCHOOLS.

There are five Schools in the Area and one Private School. and frequent visits are paid to them. The sanitary condition of the Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the Sewers, and with an abundant supply of Water from the Council mains.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Area, nor are there any Registered Houses let in Lodgings.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Houses during the year:—

1.—(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects under Public Health or Housing Act ... 178

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 206

2.—Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil

3.—Number of Houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation 72

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit during the year in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 58

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Defects to be remedied ... 17

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were made fit after Service of Formal Notice 17

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring to be remedied 22

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after Service of Formal Notice ... 22

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

No action was taken, as there are no Tenements or Underground Rooms occupied in the Area ... ... Nil

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a)—(1) No. of Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year 22
(2) No. of Families Dwelling therein 39
(3) No. of Persons Dwelling there 157
(4) No. of Houses occupied for first time during 1953 42

(b)—Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year 4

(c)—(1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year 19
(2) Number of Families Dwelling therein 19

Good progress is still being made with the provision of new Houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK.

Number of Cowsheds in the Urban Area	11
Number of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	Nil
Number of Inspections made	41

Four Retailers sell Pasteurised Milk, which is produced, treated and bottled outside the Area, and one sells T.T. Milk, also brought into the Area from outside.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is not of the same standard as in pre-War years, but this is probably true of all parts of the country. Meat is now brought into the district from Ministry Stores and Abattoirs, so no slaughtering is done at Ammanford.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of Bakehouses on the Register	6
Number of Inspections made	30

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

NUTRITION.

Dissemination of Knowledge:—

Particulars of any special work	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Houses fumigated after cases of Infectious Diseases	19

Free Disinfectants are supplied by the Council, and the rooms are fumigated with Formalin Vapour after the period of isolation is ended, or immediately the patient is removed to hospital. No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing of verminous persons or their goods.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories on the Register	59
Number of Inspections made	177

All defects brought to the notice of Factory owners and managements were attended to.

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE.

Work has continued on the control of the Rat population, the added powers given to Local Authorities under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act being of particular value.

Financial assistance is still given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and, while this continues, work can be carried on without too great a financial burden being carried by the rates.

Large numbers of rats are destroyed by following up complaints received from householders.

Your obedient servants,

G. M. HERBERT, M.O.H.

L. SUNDERLAND, Sanitary Inspector.